

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2140
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009
SHORTAGE OF LIGHT COMBAT AIRCRAFT
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in the Indian Air Force;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of such aircraft available in the Air Force at present; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide more such aircraft to the Air Force?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): Government constantly review the security environment and necessary steps are taken to induct appropriate equipment and to make other arrangements for adequate defence preparedness. A contract for procurement of one squadron of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) configuration from M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has been signed by Government in March, 2006. The LCA are likely to be inducted into the Indian Air Force from 2010-2011 onwards. Additional squadrons may be inducted on achievement of final operational clearance.